



Washington State Gambling Commission

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Unlicensed Gambling Activities Charitable or Nonprofit Organizations

Social Card and Dice Games, Bingo, Raffles, Amusement Games,
Golfing Sweepstakes, and Turkey Shoots

Certain bona fide charitable or nonprofit organizations may operate the following gambling activities without getting a license:

- Social card and dice games
- Bingo, raffles, and amusement games
- Raffles – members only
- Golfing sweepstakes
- Turkey shoots

Your charitable or nonprofit organization must meet the following requirements to be able to offer these unlicensed gambling activities:

1. Provide one or more of these nonprofit services:

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|---------------|----------------|-------------|
| • Educational | • Civic | • Patriotic |
| • Political | • Social | • Athletic |
| • Fraternal | • Agricultural | |

Or be one of the following:

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|---------------------|----------|
| • Religious Society | • Church |
| • Fraternal Society | • Grange |
| • Agricultural Fair | |

2. Be organized and operating at least 12 months.
3. Must have at least 15 actively participating members, 18 years of age or older, each with equal voting rights.
4. Be classified exempt by the IRS from federal income taxes.
5. Prove that your organization has made significant progress toward accomplishing their stated purpose(s) over the past 12 consecutive months immediately preceding the unlicensed activity.

Social Card and Dice Games

RCW 9.46.0351

If you have a *Restaurant – Spirits, Beer, and Wine* liquor license (RCW 66.24.400) you may allow your members to use your premises to play Poker, Hearts, Pinochle, Cribbage, Rummy, Panguingue, Pitch, Bridge, Bid Whist and social dice games if:

- Only members of your club or bona fide auxiliary play (no guests);
- You do not charge or collect anything from players or collect a percentage of the wagers; and
- All players play on an equal basis (no house-banked games)
- All winnings must be returned to players.

Bingo, Raffles, and Amusement Games

RCW 9.46.0315 and RCW 9.46.0321

1. Unlicensed Members-only Raffles

- You may hold an unlimited number of members-only raffles if the combined gross revenue (money taken in) from the members-only raffles does not exceed \$5,000 during a calendar year
- Prizes must only be awarded to members
- Liquor may be awarded as a prize if you have a special permit from the Liquor Control Board. The only time liquor can be a raffle prize is at a members-only raffle

2. Unlicensed Public Raffles, Bingo & Amusement Games

In addition to members-only raffles, you may offer two unlicensed raffle, bingo, or amusement game events to the public each year.

- The combined gross revenue from the two unlicensed events offered to the public must not exceed \$5,000 in a calendar year
- You may sell tickets to the public at large, not just to members of your organization
- Liquor must not be awarded as a prize
- Notify your local police agency at least five days before conducting the event

Unlicensed Raffle Requirements

RCW 9.46.0277

- Maximum price per ticket is \$25.00
- Tickets must be consecutively numbered or printed with letter or symbols which do not repeat.
- Tickets must be sold:
 - For the same price (no discounts); and
 - Only by members of your organization, age 18 or older
- No free tickets or tickets as gifts
- Tickets must not be sold on credit
- Tickets must have the following information clearly printed on each raffle ticket or available in writing.
 - Cost per chance (\$25 maximum per ticket)
 - Date, time, and location of the drawing
 - Name of the sponsoring organization
 - Whether or not the winner must be present for the drawing
 - Description of all prizes to be awarded. If the prize is a percentage of the gross receipts of the raffle, a minimum prize must be disclosed
- Firearms must not be awarded as a prize
- Prizes must be owned by the organization before the drawing
- Drawing winning tickets: Ticket stubs from all ticket sales must be placed into a receptacle and selected randomly to allow an equal chance of winning.
- Keep raffle records for one year

Golfing Sweepstakes

RCW 9.46.0341

You may conduct golfing sweepstakes based on the score(s) or the playing ability of a golfing contest between individual players or teams of players. Participation must be limited to members of the sponsoring organization or their bona fide guests.

Sweepstakes #1

- Outcome is dependent on score.
- May be individual or team.
- Tickets sold for "win", "place", or "show".
- Pay-off using a pari-mutuel system.
- All money returned to winner, less expense of sweepstakes, **OR** to the organization's purpose.



Sweepstakes #2

- All pay a like sum into a common fund.
- Scheme to earn points is determined (eagle, birdie, etc.).
- All players to reach a predetermined number of points will share in the prize fund.
- Nothing goes back to the organization.

Sweepstakes #3

- Participants bid on a team or player in an auction.
- Person placing the highest bid is awarded the proceeds of the auction, less expenses to the organization's purpose.

Turkey Shoots

RCW 9.46.0361

- Gross revenue not to exceed \$5,000 per year.
- Only members or guests may participate.
- Target, shotgun, and ammunition must be available for inspection before prize is awarded.
- Prize may not be advancement to another turkey shoot.
- All income, less prizes and expenses, must go to support the organization's stated purpose and goals.

How to Operate a Turkey Shoot

- Target – no more than 100 equal sections.
- Participants sign name on section purchased.
- Chances are sold for no more than \$1 each.
- Shooter is a member, but not a contestant.
- Target must state:
 - Distance from shooting position;
 - Shotgun gauge;
 - Type of choke;
 - Size of shot; and
 - Prizes to be awarded.
- Winning square = most shots that strike the square.
- All income, less prizes and expenses must go to support the organization's stated purpose and goals.

For more information
visit our website at www.wsgc.wa.gov

We encourage voluntary compliance.
If you have any questions, please contact us.

For regulatory and operational questions,
please call or e-mail our
Regional Field Office closest to you.

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**If you or someone you know
have a gambling problem call
800.547.6133**

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